



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

March 1, 2012

Representative Frank Foster, Chair
House Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Foster,

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes passage of SB 528-533; bills which would modify the liability and cleanup procedures for underground fuel tanks used to store petroleum and hazardous wastes. These bills limit the responsible party's liability and shift some costs to the people of Michigan. They exclude public participation in the cleanup process. Public records, information about pollution levels and pollution abatement procedures should be readily available. Further, they restrict the State's right to pass rules stricter than Federal standards.

The League of Women Voters believes Federal standards are a baseline, with the responsibility of other levels of government to reserve the right to set more stringent standards. We support regulation of pollution sources by control and penalties; inspection and monitoring; and vigorous enforcement mechanisms. Cutting fines, reducing audits, and capping damages limit the Department's enforcement powers.

We urge you to oppose SB 528-533 to ensure maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voter of Michigan

cc. Senator Thomas Casperson